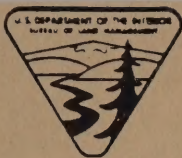




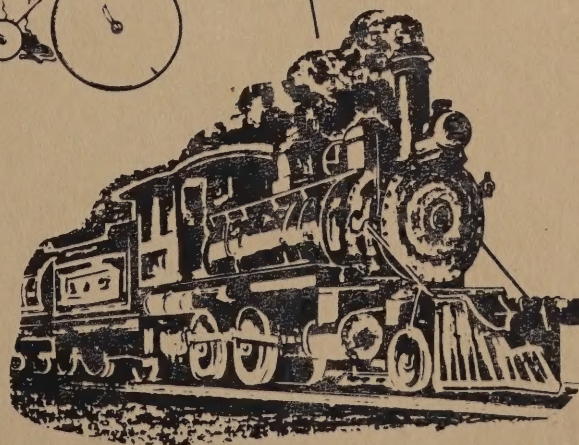
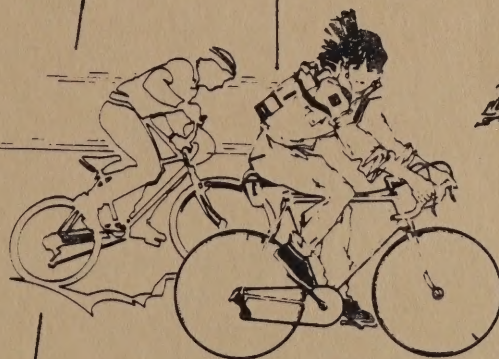
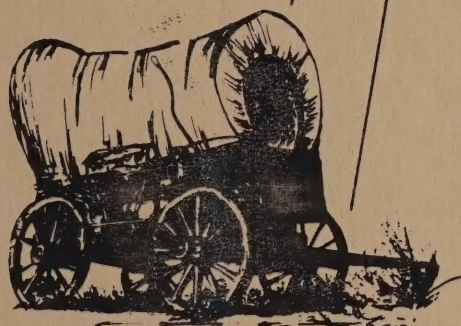
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Needles Resource Area  
California Desert District  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior

# East Mojave National Scenic Area

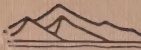
## INTERPRETIVE PLAN



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**Denver, CO 80225**

# INTERPRETIVE PLAN

## FOR

### EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, it is but a succession of changes so gentle and easy that we can scarcely mark their progress"

Bureau of Land Management  
Needles Resource Area  
California Desert District

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"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own and from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, it is but a succession of changes so gentle and easy that we can scarcely mark their progress"

Charles Dickens

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The East Mojave National Scenic Area is characterized as having high scenic quality, rich and varied vegetation and wildlife habitat, unique geology and landforms, and significant cultural-archaeological and historic values. Ranching, mining, and the railroad have been the dominant lifestyles in this relatively unpopulated area of federal, state and privately owned land. The Scenic Area was designated to conserve its exceptional scenic, recreational, educational, scientific, and natural features while ensuring continuation of uses which give the region its character.

This plan focuses on the recreational aspects, opportunities, and management concerns of the Scenic Area. It is a guide for interpretive development and activities proposed in the East Mojave NSA Plan, and addresses these needs for the next five to ten years.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance for implementation of an Interpretive/Outreach program in the Scenic Area. The plan will provide direction for site locations, interpretive themes, publication needs, implementation strategy and cost targets. Implementation of this plan will help to assure a balanced Visitor Information program that integrates the Bureau's goals for Recreation 2000, the California Identity/Image Campaign and the Backcountry Byway program. Overall the plan is a tool to help direct use on the public lands to protect sensitive resources, and promote an understanding of conservation principles.

### **Interpretive Mission**

To instill a public land ethic which promotes wise conservation of natural resources both inside and outside the East Mojave National Scenic Area.



## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **I. Develop a public land-use ethic.**

- ▶ Reduce environmental impacts by encouraging thoughtful use of the desert.
- ▶ Promote conservation of the earth's resources through environmental education.
- ▶ Increase the visitors' and area residents' knowledge and awareness of appropriate recreation use practices.
- ▶ Generate support and cooperation from local and regional groups, organizations and individuals with regards to conservation, site development and information dissemination.

### **II. Promote the need to protect our natural and cultural heritage for the educational benefits to future generations.**

- ▶ Reduce recreationists impacts to cultural resources within the Scenic Area.
- ▶ Increase awareness of the unique and irreplaceable values cultural resources provide society.
- ▶ Encourage visitors to learn more about their heritage and natural resources.

### **III. Enhance visitor's recreation experience, while protecting the area's natural resources.**

- ▶ Enhance appreciation of the natural resources of the desert.
- ▶ Educate visitors to enjoy resources safely and with minimal impact
- ▶ Assist visitors in developing a keener awareness and sensitivity to fragile ecological resources.

### **IV. Develop society's awareness of their dependence on a continual flow of natural resources, and support for the principle of balanced resource use through conservation.**

- ▶ Provide information concerning non-recreational uses of the area.
- ▶ Promote visitor understanding of BLM's goal of conservation management.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **THE ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Location**

The East Mojave NSA encompasses approximately 1.5 million acres of federal, state and private land in northeastern San Bernardino County. The center of the Scenic Area is approximately 60 miles northwest of Needles, CA; 90 miles east of Barstow, CA and 75 miles southwest of Las Vegas, NV. Primary access is from I-40, I-15 and US 95 with driving times of 5-6 hours from Los Angeles and Phoenix. Its reputation as an isolated area stems not from a lack of accessibility, but from its lack of population and such services as electricity, gasoline, and auto repair facilities.

#### **Weather and Climate**

The weather is generally warm and dry, though often variable and unpredictable. Spring and fall are the most suitable periods for visiting the area. Summers are hot, particularly at lower elevations where daytime temperatures reach above 110 ° F. Areas above 4,500 feet rarely exceed 95 ° F. Late summer can bring violent thunderstorms and threat of flash floods. Winters are cool and damp with daytime highs normally ranging between 40 - 70 ° F and sub-freezing temperatures common at night at all elevations. Snow flurries are not unusual above 3,000 feet during the colder months.

#### **Physical Features**

Geomorphologically the East Mojave is part of the Basin and Range province and is characterized by rugged block-faulted mountain ranges separated by large irregular alluvium filled valleys. Dividing the Scenic Area in half are the northeast trending ranges of the Providence, Mid Hills, and New York Mountains. The main valleys are Ivanpah, Kelso, Lanfair, Piute, and the northern part of Fenner Valley and Halloran Wash. Ivanpah Valley and Kelso line up in a northeasterly orientation, but interestingly, they drain in opposite directions due to an inconspicuous northwest trending divide near the Town of Cima. Lanfair and Piute Valleys drain through Piute Wash into the Colorado River. The rest of the valleys have internal drainage systems with some displaying playas.

Other features found in this region include cinder cones, sand dunes, volcanic mesas and buttes, and a large symmetrical dome. Several stages of igneous activity, metamorphism, and many episodes of deformation resulting in thrust faulting have complicated the geology of the East Mojave. These geological processes have produced numerous types of rocks which range in age from the oldest (Precambrian) to the present.



## **Biological Features**

The wildlife and vegetative resources in the East Mojave region reflect an intermingling of the three major North American Deserts: Great Basin, Mojave and Sonoran. The Scenic Area is primarily within the Mojave Desert but contains floral and faunal elements of the Great Basin and Sonoran Deserts and some elements of the California Coastal Zone. Generally, the transition between the Great Basin and Mojave Deserts occurs at about 4,000 feet in elevation. The vegetation of the Mojave Desert is dominated by low, widely spaced shrubs. Over 700 different varieties of plants have been recorded in the East Mojave, many of which occur here and nowhere else. The East Mojave is unusual in the complexity and density of its Joshua tree, mojave yucca and spanish bayonet communities. The diverse habitats of the region support almost 300 species of wildlife.

## **Historical Events**

The historical events of the East Mojave region include the remains of one of the most desolate official U.S. Army camps in the West at Camp Rock Spring (1867); the late 1860's army outposts and relay stations at Piute Spring (Fort Piute) and Marl Spring; and the nationally significant Mojave Road (circa 1859 - 1883) linking Prescott, AZ to Los Angeles, CA.

Many mining boom towns came and went, some of which included the 1880's mining townsite of Providence with the associated Bonanza King Mine; 1890's town Vanderbilt and the Boomerang Mine Mill site and the Hart and Ivanpah town sites. Intensive mining activity occurred in the East Mojave region between 1865 and 1892. Since 1892, the East Mojave has been subject to cycles of prospecting and mineral extraction stimulated by the completion of the Union Pacific railroad, as well as the fluctuation in prices for tungsten, iron, gold, silver, and copper.

Mining and other U.S. transportation needs lead to segments of two early transcontinental railroads passing through the region - the Atlantic and Pacific R.R. (1883) and the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake R.R. (1905). Other segments that have since been abandoned include the two local railways of - Nevada Southern (California Eastern) Railway (1893 - 1923) and the Barnwell and Searchlight Railway (1907 - 1923).

Ranching had its heyday from 1880 to 1920 with homesteading and small mining operations occurring from 1910 to 1925. During WW II (1941 to 1943) Desert Training Center Camps were established nearby at Camp Ibis and Camp Clipper.





## VISITOR USE PROFILE

A Public Area Recreation Visitor Study (PARVS) conducted during spring of 1990 should provide updated information regarding the needs and desires of current Scenic Area users. A supplement will be added when the data is received.

### Current information reflects the following:

The EMNSA receives most of its visitors from the Los Angeles basin and coastal ranges. Those coming from Las Vegas, NV comprise the second highest visitor population, followed by residents of the local area (Needles, CA, Bullhead, AZ, and Laughlin, NV.). Visitors from 33 States and 11 foreign countries have visited the Scenic Area or recently requested information. Based on campground registers, 85% of the visitors are from California.

Visitors arrive after traveling an average of 175 miles, seeking simple recreation experiences and an escape from automobile congestion, air pollution and urban clutter. They are comprised of day visitors, overnight campers, and those who stay several days (average stay 2 - 7 days) and at least half have been coming for 5-10 years.

Groups from the Sierra Club, Boy Scouts of America, Audubon Society, Issak Walton League, various 4-wheel drive groups and numerous schools are frequent visitors on weekends and holidays during the Spring and Fall.

## CUSTOMER GROUP MATRIX

Group	Season	Customer needs or benefits	BLM needs or benefits
Educational Groups	S / f	Resource Base	Research & papers
Hunters	F	Resource Base	Volunteers
Recreational Shooting	F / all year	Resource Base	Trash Clean-up
Campers	B / all year	Campground Backcountry/Primitive sites	
Equestrian groups	B	Facilities & Trails	Trail maintenance
Hiking	B	Maps & Trails	
Mountain Bikes	B	Maps & Routes	Trail Routes
Photographers	B / all year	Resource base	
Birding	B	Resource base	Birding counts
Recreational gold miners	All year	Resource base	
Rockhounding	Fall / s	Resource base	
4-Wheel drive explorers	B / all year	Access routes	Volunteers
Flower observation	S	Resource base	
Sightseers	All year	Maps & Brochures	
RV users	B	Campground / Maps / Brochures	Camphosts
Wildlife Viewing	B	Resource Base	Animal counts / sightings
Local Residents	All year	Information / Resource base/ Input into mgt. actions	



## **CURRENT INTERPRETIVE EFFORTS**

### **Wayside Exhibits/ Roadside Interpretation**

**Entry Areas - Gateways** - There are six primary entry sites into the Scenic Area: three on the north side of the Scenic Area, on I-15 at Baker/Kelbaker Road, Cima Road and Nipton Road; three on the south side of the Scenic Area on I-40 at Kelbaker Road, Essex Road and Goffs/Fenner. The entry sites provide general orientation to the Scenic Area in the form of a map, emergency information and a brochure box. Exhibits are fiberglass embedded signs.

**Freeway Rest Areas** - Two interstate rest areas are adjacent to the Scenic Area: the Fenner rest area on both sides of I-40 and Valley Wells rest area on both sides of I-15. At present there are only CDCA maps at these locations.

**Camp Rock Spring** - At Camp Rock Spring there is a bulletin board exhibit and a historical plaque.

### **Desert Information Outposts**

Desert Information Outposts are local businesses within the desert that have provided space for brochures and desert information to be posted and provided to the public. Five DIO's are located at Goffs, Nipton, Amboy, Baker and Cima Road at I-15. Each display includes a map and photo's, brochure box and an outside sign.

### **Self-guiding Devices/Trails**

Vehicle exploration trails 1)Mojave Road 2) East Mojave Heritage Trail. Trail guides published by Friends of the Mojave Road interpret and direct use.

Hiking guides - Rock Spring, Fort Piute/Gorge

## **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES**

### **Conducted walks, hikes and tours:**

Walks/hikes lasting from 1-1/2 to 4 hours are conducted at various locations in the Scenic Area (Kelso Depot, Kelso Dunes, Rock Spring and Fort Piute/Gorge) with an average attendance of 5 - 10 people. Pre-scheduled programs for groups (15 - 30 people) are given at campgrounds, Kelso Depot, Kelso Dunes and Rock Spring.

### **Portable Exhibits:**

Several general CDCA displays are available through the District Office Public Affairs staff.



## **Outreach:**

Fairs - Orange County, San Bernardino, Del Mar, Los Angeles  
Gem and Mineral shows - Quartzite and Needles  
Schools and other groups as requested.

## **Campfire programs:**

Rangers, Visitor Service and other BLM personnel provide programs upon request. Regularly scheduled programs take place spring and fall at the Hole-in-the-Wall campground. BLM personnel also provide information at early Saturday morning programs.

## **Audiovisual Equipment/Facilities:**

Equipment available includes slide file (capacity about 3000 slides), indoor screen and an outdoor folding projection screen, 4 projectors, dissolve unit, Wallensak (tape recorder/projector sync unit), 35 mm camera with standard and zoom lenses, VCR and TV, mat cutter, and display boards.

## **Publications:**

### **Free Publications**

- ▶ East Mojave Guide
- ▶ Fort Piute - information and trail brochure
- ▶ Rock Spring - information and trail brochure [- out of print]
- ▶ Hole-in-the-Wall Country [- out of print]
- ▶ Kelso Depot - by Kelso Depot Fund Inc.
- ▶ Camping - DO brochure
- ▶ OHV - DO brochure
- ▶ SO updates
- ▶ Newsbeat

### **Publications for sale**

- ▶ Desert Access Guides - map with recreation information; 22 maps in series.
- ▶ East Mojave Road Guide - 4 wheel drive vehicle trail.
- ▶ East Mojave Heritage Trail (EMHT) - "4 book" 4 wheel drive vehicle trail.
- ▶ Recreation guide to EMNSA plus other CA desert sights; Coop/private pub.

Other publications are available through the Southwest Natural Cultural and Historical Association

**Environmental Education Material:** Very little is available pertaining to the desert.

## **Public Affairs/News Releases:**

Press releases are distributed to news media. They publicize current events such as wildflower displays, interpretation programs, special events and safety concerns.





## **OTHER NEARBY INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES**

### **Providence Mountains State Recreation Area**

The visitor center includes exhibits relating to - Indians, Ida and Jack Mitchell, cave formations and animals. It also houses a reference library, caving equipment, and office space. Through their Natural History Association, the park sells brochures, maps and books about the area and other California State Parks. Other information is available on the geologic setting of Mitchell Caverns, birds, plants, mammals, amphibians and reptiles of the area.

All interpretation is directly related to the caves and the history of the park. A 1/2 hour guided interpretive tour of the main caves is available to the visiting public. There are three trails in the area: Crystal Spring, NIÑA Mora and Mary Beal Nature Trail. Access to Cave of the Winding Stair is available by permit for experienced groups. Other activities include camping, picnicking and rock climbing. No horse, OHV or mountain bike use is permitted in the park.

### **Soda Springs - Barstow RA, BLM**

Access to Soda Springs is via a four mile dirt road from the ZZZZX exit on I-15. Elevations range from 930 feet above sea level on Soda Dry Lake on the east to 2,266 feet on Soda Peak. The planning area encompasses 9,500 acres. The goal of the Desert Studies Center is to educate the general public emphasizing the East Mojave National Scenic Area, ZZZZX Mineral Springs, and the natural and cultural resources of both Soda Springs and the surrounding desert through a cooperative management agreement with California State Universities and the BLM.

The orientation center was built at a site that allows separation of the primary public use area from the formal education area. The center provides displays that interpret the cultural and natural resources of Soda Springs and the surrounding area. During the winter months guided tours of the area are conducted by the BLM or volunteers for a fee. No services are available at Soda Springs.

### **California Desert Information Center (CDIC) - Barstow RA, BLM**

Located at 831 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA 92311, (619) 256-8617. The CDIC is cooperatively managed by the BLM and the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce. Flora and fauna exhibits, displays about Mojave Desert history and topography, and a variety of reference materials are available to the general public. The Barstow RA is in the process of writing an interpretive plan for the information center. The center benefits the East Mojave by providing a stopping point for those coming from the coast prior to entering the Scenic Area.





## RELATIONSHIP WITH EMNSA PLAN

The East Mojave plan identified development of an interpretive plan to allow coordinated implementation of actions C-7 through C-10. The interpretation plan addresses feasibility of the sites proposed, elaborates on the specific actions and provides cost targets for projects suggested in the EMNSA plan.

### PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

#### Proposed Management Elements

- C-1: Provide information and area regulations at six main entry points to the East Mojave.
- C-2: Provide information displays about the Scenic Area at the California Desert Information Center, the Visitor Orientation center at Soda Springs, and adjacent Interstate rest areas.
- C-3: Develop facilities at Hole-in-the-Wall recreation area to provide a year-round visitor contact station and quarters for a resident Ranger.
- C-4: Establish "Desert Information Outposts" at Providence Mountain State Recreation Area, Amboy, Baker, Chambless, Cima, the Cima Road exit at I-15, Essex, Goffs, and Nipton.
- C-5: Establish a visitor contact station at Kelso Depot, and quarters for a resident ranger.
- C-6: Develop an Interpretive Plan for the East Mojave covering the area's cultural and natural history, and man's interaction with the resources of the region.
- C-7: Develop interpretive facilities at key points or areas of interest to interpret features, history, and uses of the East Mojave.
- C-8: Publish a uniform series of information bulletins describing opportunities for specific recreational activities and covering topics of general visitor interest.
- C-9: Provide a regularly updated guide on interpretive programs, activities, seasonal recreation opportunities, and articles of general interest.
- C-10: Provide for the sale of books, maps and other publications pertaining to the East Mojave through the auspices of a cooperating natural history association.





## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The following list of interpretive themes represents only a few of the numerous possibilities. Themes will periodically be reviewed to assess the changing needs of the resource and its users. Future interpretive challenges and priorities may require additional themes and creative responses.

## PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

### Theme: Values, attitudes and self-reliance

#### Sub-Themes:

- Adventure in the desert
- Low impact use
- Environmental benefits
- All the National Parks
- Our Red Hot desert
- Public Safety

### Theme: BLM mandates, role and issues

#### Sub-Themes:

- The BLM Special Agents - Who are they, What do they do?
- What is the BLM/BLCA?
- Conservation for today and tomorrow
- Integrated resource management

### Theme: Cultural resource protection

#### Sub-Themes:

- Who's destroying our cultural resources?
- The fragile nature of archaeological sites
- Preserving the fragile past is everyone's responsibility
- Removing artifacts destroys their value and history





## **INTERPRETIVE THEMES**

The following list of interpretive themes represents only a few of the numerous possibilities. Themes will periodically be reviewed to meet the changing needs of the resource and its users. Future interpretive challenges and problems may require additional themes and creative responses.

### **Theme: Visitor orientation and area information**

#### **Sub-Themes:**

- Adventure in the desert
- Low impact use
- Environmental hazards
- Ask the Naturalist - ?
- Fire and the desert
- Public Safety

### **Theme: BLM mandates, role and issues**

#### **Sub-Themes:**

- The BLM Specialist/Ranger - Who are they, What do they do?
- What is the BLM/CDCA ?
- Conservation for today and tomorrow
- Integrated resource management

### **Theme: Cultural resource protection**

#### **Sub-Themes:**

- Who's destroying our cultural resources?
- The fragile nature of archaeological sites
- Preserving the fragile past is everyone's responsibility
- Removing artifacts destroys their value and beauty





## **Theme: Natural resource protection/conservation**

### **Sub-Themes:**

- Desert ecosystems
- Designs for survival - adaptation of plants & animals
- Desert wildlife
- The future of Endangered Species
- Issues affecting the environment in the area and around the world
- Interrelated resources
- Wilderness Use

## **Theme: Geology History and Landforms of the Present**

### **Sub-Themes:**

- Sculpture of the land
- Mining yesterday, today and tomorrow
- Land form effects on flora and fauna
- Works of vulcanism
- Yesterday a sea, today a desert, tomorrow ?

## **Theme: Human History**

### **Sub-Themes:**

- Man in the East Mojave
  - Prehistoric man and his environment
  - Exploration or exploitation
  - How modern man has altered the environment
- Westward Expansion
  - Great explorers of the west
  - Military - indian conflicts
  - Western trails and travelers
  - Mining frontier
  - Cattleman's empire
  - The Farmer's frontier
- America at work - transportation, communications, mining, ranching, railroads and utilities





## Theme: Vehicle Use

### Sub-Themes:

- Vehicle exploration
- Tread lightly - safe vehicle use

## Theme: Hunting/recreational shooting

### Sub-Themes:

- Hunting opportunities and regulations
- Know about endangered species
- Responsible use of firearms

## Theme: Conflicts

### Sub-Themes:

- Your rights and landowners rights
- Social impacts on others





## ON-SITE INTERPRETATION

On-site interpretive locations have been chosen because of use patterns, or interesting features, with the majority located along the major road system in the Scenic Area. Wayside exhibits encourage visitors to get out of their vehicles to explore the desert by alternative means.

Roadside interpretation some of which will be located on Backcountry Byways will consist of: exhibits, interpretive signs and markers. Exhibits and interpretive signs describe area features, explain concepts and reveal meanings. The location of interpretive signs will be identified by approach signs along the roads to encourage visitors to stop.

Interpretive exhibits and signs will be durable and resistant to vandalism, of modern attractive design, and colors which harmonize with the environment. (Exhibits may be sheltered to provide shade for visitors.) The design of interpretive signs distinguishes them from directional and control signs. Markers and standard area directional signs will be consistent in design. Contracting will be used to provide additional technical support as needed for development, fabrication and evaluation of exhibits.

All on-site interpretive projects have been assigned a site index number consisting of one or more letters and a number. The letter(s) indicates the generic type of site, the site categories include the following:

- B -- Biological Sites: unique ecological zones, (plants & animals) etc.
- F -- Facility Sites: interpretive trails, interpretive centers, or other related facilities.
- G -- Geological Sites: bedrock outcrops, caves, fault lines, mining, etc.
- H -- Historical/Archaeological Sites: ranching, historical buildings, sites where historic events took place (military), petroglyphs, etc.
- O -- Orientation Sites: existing or proposed information centers, bulletin boards, kiosks, directional signs for interpretive services/facilities, recreation opportunities, BLM role, general info, etc.
- P -- Paleontological Sites: fossil beds or deposits.



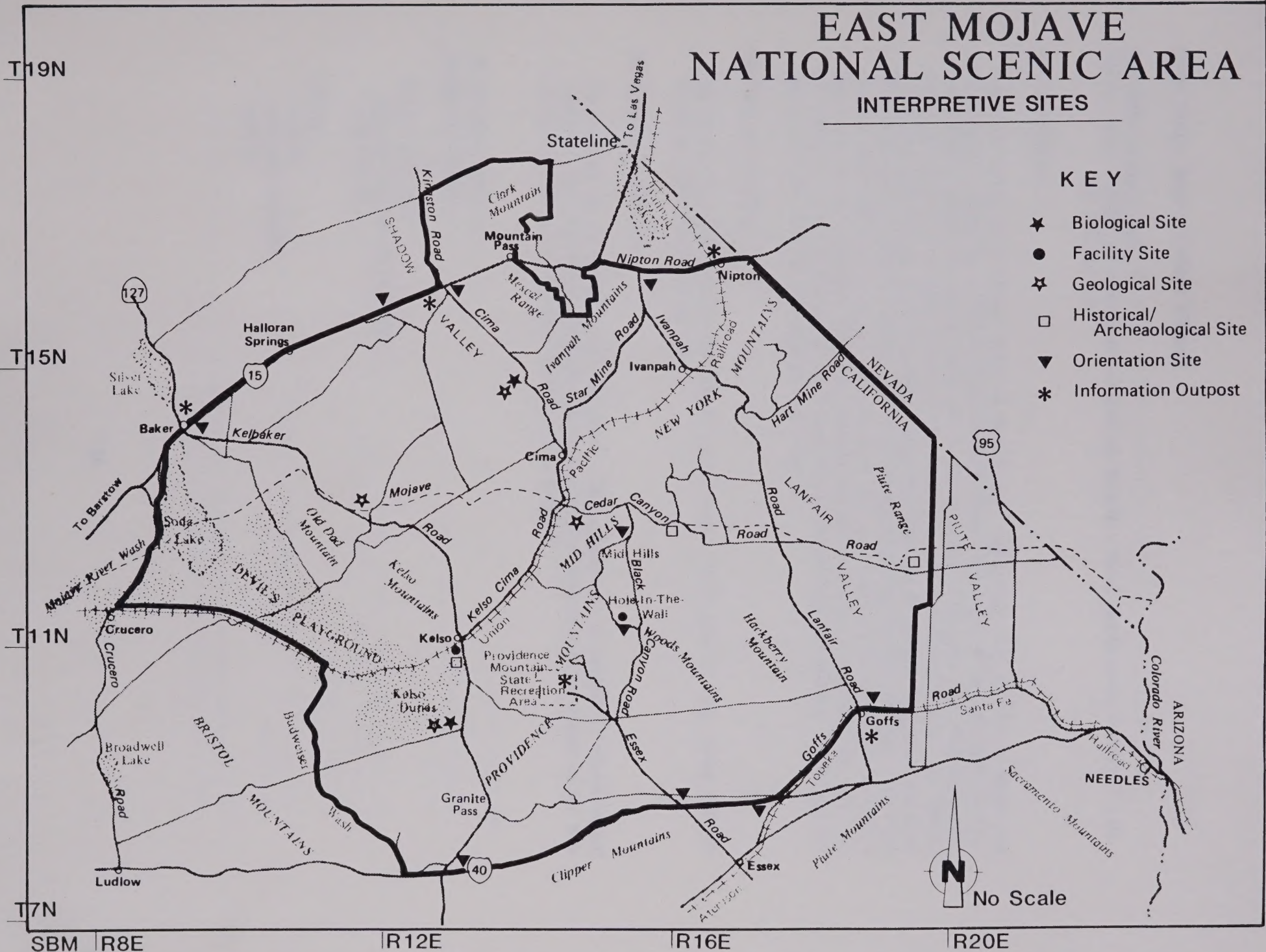


# EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

## INTERPRETIVE SITES

### KEY

- ★ Biological Site
- Facility Site
- ☆ Geological Site
- Historical/Archeological Site
- ▼ Orientation Site
- \* Information Outpost







## **Site: Kelso Depot Visitor Center**

**Site Index Number:** FH - 1

**Site Location:** Kelso 30 miles north of I-40 on Kelbaker Road (Backcountry Byway). T 11N, R 12E, Sec. 25

### **Site Description:**

This site consists of a railroad depot of Spanish style architecture built in 1924 to house and feed railroad crews that worked on this section of tracks. Numerous palms and deciduous trees were planted around the depot which add to the character of the area (the trees loose their leaves in the fall). It provides an oasis in the desert for a variety of birds that live and migrate (spring and fall) through the Scenic Area. From the depot the Providence Mountains and Kelso Dunes provide a wonderful setting. The area consists of several railroad residences and a few private ones. This area is still an active Railroad line and trains can be viewed several times a day, there are also passenger trains that pass through here between LA and Salt Lake, UT. An old Caboose is to be added to the site. There are also some other old buildings on the site that may merit some form of interpretation or restoration.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

The site is accessible most of the year by paved roads. There may be some minor difficulty during the rainy portions of the year.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

The building and its spanish style architecture. The railroad and its relation to expansion and mobility of the west. This site will provide a good spot for discussion of the history of the west and how the face of the area has changed or not changed.

## **Story development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Visitor orientation

bureau outreach and education

General info

History

cultural

westward expansion

railroad

**Audience:**

All visitors, with special interest by history buffs, birders, railroad enthusiasts

**Site Objectives:**

To preserve the historical character of the building and refurbish the interior to use as a visitor center.

To maintain and improve the wildlife oasis.

**Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The majority of visitors to this site will gain an understanding of the hardships of the early explorers and settlers of the desert.

The majority of visitors to this site will gain an understanding of the Scenic area's conservation management.

The majority of visitors will have a greater appreciation for the Cultural Resources of the East Mojave.

The majority of the visitors will gain an understanding of the services that are provided to them by the desert, or travel to them through the desert.

**Interpretive Concepts :**

Human induced changes have created a new ecological zone or oasis here.

**Interpretive Mode(s):**

Exhibits will cost \$100 - 200 a square foot to design and construct. The exhibit area is a 1000 sq feet.

A movie or slide show will cost \$1000 - 3000 a program minute and the program should be no longer than 12 - 15 min. A video with a flat screen hung on the wall can be used to provide a variety of options.

The use of objects, (original or replicas) and photos will be used as much as possible to convey the message.

An interpretive sign should be available near the parking area to talk about the history of the building and area when the building is under renovation and closed.



## **Justification:**

The building is a focal point for visitors and will be used as an administrative site, a visitor center, and for off-site interpretation.

## **Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

- Assign a project manager
- Preserve the historical character of the buildings exterior.
- Redesign and renovate the interior
- Provide handicap access
- Continue with project plan
- Establish historical association to collect revenues, distribute information and conduct research toward publication production.

The implementation of this proposal is dependent upon availability of this facility for Bureau occupation. A private group is seeking ownership of this building and site from the Union Pacific Railroad. A Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) among this private group, the Kelso Depot Fund and the Bureau is proposed for joint use of the Facility. Should an agreement be reached suitable to the Bureau, implementation of the Visitor Center, in the Kelso Depot, will proceed.

## **Site: Hole-in-the-Wall Visitor Contact Station**

**Site Index Number:** FO - 1

**Site Location:** Hole-in-a-wall is located approximately 17 miles north of I-40 off of Essex then Black Canyon Road (Backcountry Byway). T 11N, R 15E, Sec. 8.

### **Site Description:**

The visitor station is located in the old campground section against a volcanic rock backdrop. North of the campground, the area has been used for day use and overflow camping. This area is being designed for day use only. A new campground is being built that will include a dump station, a host site with water and sewage and 22 RV sites with possible expansion to 75 sites. East of Cedar Canyon Road is a fire station that houses about 10 fire fighters from May - October. The overall region includes 3 ranches with typical ranch facilities.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

This site is accessible 9-12 months of the year. The areas elevation, 4500 feet, makes it a nice desert camping area. Access is by county graded dirt road.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

This is a major concentration area for overnight visitors. It provides a suitable site for on-site and off-site interpretation.

## **Story development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Visitor orientation

Recreation today and tomorrow

Vehicle Use

Hunting/recreational shooting

Geology

The making of Hole-in-the Wall

Natural resource conservation

Cultural resources

Vehicle Use

Hunting / Recreational shooting



**Audience:**

All visitors, day users, picnickers, campers and hunters - fall.

**Site Objectives:**

Provide visitors with information and orientation materials ensuring responsible resource use.

Provide visitors with information about desert safety and environmental hazards.

Revegetate areas in the day use area and around the Visitor contact station.

Develop a biological interpretive trail.

The Visitor Contact Station should blend with the ranch style homes found in the valley.

**Campground Objectives:**

Develop bulletin boards to provide more information about the area.

Develop a camp host site to assist with information and regulation compliance.

**Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The majority of visitors to this site will gain an appreciation for the complexity of the desert geology.

The majority of visitors will leave with a greater appreciation of the desert and its wildlife.

The majority of visitors will gain an understanding of their responsibility in protecting cultural resources.

The majority of visitors will learn about the variety of recreational opportunities available in the desert.

**Campground:**

To make visitors aware of the opportunities the desert has to offer them.

To have all visitors comply with shooting closures and safety standards.





**Interpretive Mode(s):**

Major information center and interpretive facility. Campfire programs at amphitheater. Self-guided Historical/Botanical interpretive trail with approximately 15 stops.

**Campground:**

A 3 sided bulletin board will allow enough room to develop seasonal displays, map and updated information or regulations.

**Justification:**

The site is highly used by all visitors to the region. Hole-in-the-Wall is centrally located within the Scenic Area and is near the majority of overnight visitors. This site also receives heavy use by most types of visitors.

To inform campers about activities, responsibilities, where more information can be found and where emergency services are located.

**Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

- Interior exhibits should be easily changed since there are different visitors in both the spring and the fall.
- Windows near the main door can be used to provide exterior information when the building is closed.
- Volunteer hosts could be used to supplement staffing of facility and assist with maintaining the building and exhibits.
- An Interpretive/Volunteer association should be developed from interested groups and individuals to assist with this important aspect.
- Exterior exhibits will present a map and emergency information.
- Interior displays will present things to see and do, and present and future activities.
- Interpretation programs will be scheduled for overnight visitors.
- Saturday morning programs will continue as long as they are effective.
- The project plan and building design for this project has been completed.

**Campground:**

- Present information board will be expanded to include more information.
- Information here will focus on activities in the area, where more information can be obtained, what to do in case of an emergency, where phones are located, and how far to hospitals.

## **Site: Mid Hills Campground and area**

**Site Index Number:** O - 2 and B - 1

**Site Location:** T 12N, R 14E, Mid Hills Campground is located approximately 25 miles north of I-40 off of Essex Road, then on Black Canyon Road to Wildhorse Canyon Backcountry Byway.

### **Site Description:**

The campground is set in a Pinyon - Juniper forest/Great Basin sage area, including 26 sites and 4 pit toilets. The New York Mtns, Cima Dome & Kelso Dunes are all visible from different points in the Campground. Campground expansion is planned for FY-93 which will double visitor capacity.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

The roads leading into the campground are graded dirt and open most of the year. Fall rains can wash out portions of the road making access difficult. Also due to the elevation (5500'), snow is possible from December to February.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

A large concentration of overnight visitors are found at this location.

During the fall, the greatest percentage of visitors are hunters.

The unusual vegetative zone: The Pinyon-Juniper Forest and the Great Basin Sage.

## **Story development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Desert Ecosystems

Journey through the Great Basin

Pinyon-Juniper Forest

Visitor information

Natural resource conservation

Hunting



**Audience:**

All, campers, hunters (fall), educational groups (spring).

**Site Objectives:**

Develop bulletin boards to provide more information about the area.

Develop a camphost site to assist with information and regulation compliance.

Develop a small amphitheater.

Develop an interpretive trail.

**Interpretive Program Objectives:**

To make visitors aware of the opportunities the desert has to offer them.

To have all visitors comply with shooting closures and safety standards.

**Interpretive Mode(s):**

A 3 sided bulletin board will allow enough room to develop seasonal displays, map and updated information or regulations.

Sign and Information Board ; brochure or trail markers

**Justification:**

Visitors are often not aware of the regulations or changes that have been made.

The present board needs to be updated and the scope of information expanded to include a map, location where additional information can be obtained, what to do in case of an emergency and scheduled activities.

**Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

A small amphitheater as part of the expansion of the campground will provide a meeting area for groups and for the Bureau to providing programs to the public. A loop trail near the campground will be used for an interpretive trail to explain the interesting vegetation found in this area.

## **Site: Gateways - Entry Areas, 6 total**

**Site Index Number:** O - 3 thru 8

**Site Location:** There are six sites, 3 off of I-40 at Fenner, Essex, and Kelbaker. 3 off I-15 at Kelbaker Kelso-Cima and Nipton Road. These are also starting points for many of the Backcountry Byways.

### **Site Description:**

Each site provides a different scenic vista with most of the displays set in creosote scrub.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

All sites are approximately 1/4 mile from freeway. A pull through and parking for 2 vehicles is available via paved access.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

The area is designed to filter use and provide locations for more information.

This site includes 2 fiberglass embedded signs. (1 with a map and the other with rules and regulations.)

## **Story Development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Visitor Orientation and Area Regulations

Recreation Opportunities

**Audience:** All visitors

### **Site Objectives:**

To provide general information, basic rules and regulations and sites for more information.

### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The majority of visitors will have stopped at one of these sites and read the information.



## **Interpretive Mode(s):**

Information exhibits, brochure and turnout

## **Justification:**

Most visitors access the Scenic Area at 6 key locations. These entry sites provide basic information and regulations. These sites are also at the beginning of many of the Backcountry Byways.

## **Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

- New signs were installed in fall of 1990. These signs will be reviewed in 1995 and updated as needed. A contract file exists on this project.
- A brochure with some basic information will be available. It will include a map, location for additional information, location of BLM personnel, major facilities and campgrounds.
- Add shade structure
- Add Backcountry Byway exhibit

**Site: Kelso Dunes**

**Site Index Number:** BG - 1

**Site Location:** T 9N, R 12E, sec. 2. 3 miles east of Kelbaker Road (Backcountry Byway) on graded dirt road and 15 miles North of I-40 and 15 miles south of Kelso.

**Site Description:**

The sand dunes cover a large area but most of the recreation activity is contained on the south side of the dune between the access road and the tall ridge system to the north of the road.

**Seasonal Accessibility:**

Site is accessible all season long via graded dirt road from paved Kelbaker Road.

**Interpretive Significance:**

This is the third tallest dune system in North America. It is also a booming dune. There is a variety of plants and wildlife unique to the area.

**Story development****Interpretive Theme:**

Desert Ecosystems

Life in a Sea of Sand

Geology

Natural Resource Conservation

**Audience:**

General visitor, educational groups

**Site Objectives:**

To protect the site from over-use and possible damage by utilizing a trail through this area to control visitor flow and access.



### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The majority of visitors would gain a basic understanding of dune systems.

### **Interpretive Concepts -**

The dune a changing landscape.  
How sand moves across the dune.  
The life zone - where animals live.

### **Interpretive Mode(s):**

Wayside exhibits explaining and interpreting the various concepts.  
Interpreter conducted walks on site.

### **Justification:**

The area contains some of the tallest dunes in CA, reaching 600 feet in height. In addition, the area has a number of interesting plant communities and species.

### **Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

A 1/4 - 1/2 mile interpretive/handicap access boardwalk trail (or identification by means other than a boardwalk) will be considered for development. At present there are many trails leading through the vegetation on the dunes. To reduce impacts to the vegetation one trail will be designated for use. This trail will interpret formation of the dunes, as well as the various plants, and animals found in the dune system. Development of the trail will require consideration of two-way wheel chair travel.

## **Site: Cima Dome / Sunrise Rock area**

**Site Index Number:** BG - 2

**Site Location:** T 14N, R 13E, NE 1/4 of sec. 11. Approximately 10 miles south of I-15 off of Cima Road.

### **Site Description:**

This site is on the east side of Cima Dome in the Joshua Tree Woodland. This area has views of Teutonia Peak, Striped Mtn, and Kessler Peak.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

This site is easily accessible most of the year. Snow is possible from Dec. - Feb.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

The Joshua trees bloom about every three years.  
Mining in the surrounding hills.

A dense Joshua tree forest of the uncommon Yucca brevifolia var. jaegerian covers much of the dome. There is also the characteristic Joshua tree woodland shrub association. Cima dome is a granite structure some 13 kilometers (8) miles in diameter and is the remnant of an extensive late Pliocene erosion surface.

## **Story development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Desert Ecosystems  
The Story of the Joshua Tree

Geology

### **Audience:**

All visitors, campers, day users, hikers

### **Site Objectives:**

Develop Teutonia Peak trail as an interpretive trail.  
Encourage visitors to carry trash out of the desert.



### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The majority of visitors would gain a basic understanding of the complexity of the Joshua Tree Woodland.

### **Interpretive Concepts -**

What makes a batholith.

### **Interpretive Mode(s):**

Wayside Exhibit  
Interpretive trail/ Teutonia Peak Trail  
Brochure on the area

### **Justification:**

This area is visible and accessible from a major road (Backcountry Byway). Cima Dome is a symmetrically rounded landform rising about 1500' above the surrounding terrain. Covering the dome is a dense Joshua tree forest that provides habitat for a wide variety of birds. A 2 mile trail to Teutonia Peak was constructed in 1989.

### **Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

- In the East Mojave SA plan this site is being considered for some site improvements as indicated by Limits of Acceptable Change. This site is presently receiving a low level of use for picnicking, and dispersed camping.

## **Site: Rock Springs**

**Site Index Number:** H - 1

**Site Location:** T 12 N, R 15 E, Sec 1. Rock Springs is 1/8 mile south of Cedar Canyon Road (Backcountry Byway) approx 20 miles west of Lanfair-Ivanpah Road.

### **Site Description:**

At the present time natural erosion is taking its toll on the area.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

The site is available most of the year though washouts are possible during the July-August rains.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

- Spring on Mojave Road - generally not running today
- Only Official Army Outpost between Fort Mohave, AZ and Camp Cady, CA
- Site had a large desertion rate.
- Mining

## **Story development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Human History

Westward Expansion - Hard Road to Travel

**Audience:** 4x4 users, general user.

### **Site Objectives:**

Preserve the site, and prevent further soil erosion.  
Restrict access and stabilize the east bank.

### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The majority of visitors to this area will gain an understanding of the hardships endured by Army personnel, explorers, pioneers.



**Interpretive Concepts -**

Only official Fort (Outpost) between Fort Mohave, AZ and Camp Cady, CA.

**Interpretive Mode(s):**

Wayside exhibits

Brochure/hiking guide, exists but needs to be revised and reprinted.

**Justification:**

This is the only spring on the Mojave Road that is adjacent to a primary route (Cedar Canyon Backcountry Byway) in the Scenic Area. The area includes the remains of an old army outpost, and historic and prehistoric rock art.

**Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

- Coordinate with Archaeologist for interpretation of the area.
- Additional historic information and photos may be available from Dennis Casebier

**Additional information**

Camp Rock Spring ACEC Plan, 1981

Camp Rock Spring by Dennis G. Casebier

**Site: Fort Piute**

**Site Index Number:** HB - 2

**Site Location:** T 12N, R 18E, sec 3, & R 19E, sec. 18. This site is approx. 8 miles west of US 95 North.

**Site Description:**

This site is composed of petroglyphs, an army outpost ruins and a unique riparian area.

**Seasonal Accessibility:**

This area is accessible by 4x4 or high clearance vehicles most of the year

**Interpretive Significance:**

The petroglyphs/ prehistory in the area.

The occupation of the area as an Army outpost.

An outstanding example of a desert riparian area.

**Story development****Interpretive Theme:**

Human History

Prehistoric Man and his environment

Westward Expansion - A Hard Road to Travel

Natural Resource Protection

Cultural Resource Protection

**Audience:** 4-wheel drive users and hikers

**Site Objectives:**

Provide interpretation via a trail.

Insure completion of archaeological work and on going monitoring in the area.

Restrict vehicle access to the riparian area.

Restrict vehicle access to the ruins reducing impact and degradation of the ruins.



### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The public will gain an understanding of how to protect archaeological sites.

To have visitors imagine/experience the hardships early travelers endured (coping with the environment) using the Mojave Road.

### **Interpretive Concepts -**

To have visitors learn the general history of the site.

### **Interpretive Mode(s):**

Brochure/hiking guide

Wayside exhibits

### **Justification:**

The site includes the remains of an 1860's army outpost, and evidence of earlier occupation and use in prehistoric times. Piute Creek provides an important desert riparian habitat. The site provides an excellent opportunity to interpret cultural resources and understand the importance of their protection. Closure of the access road 1/2 mile from the ruins, provides an excellent opportunity for development of exhibits along the trail.

### **Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

- This is a team project with multiple resources being effected in the area.
- An extensive amount of archaeological research still needs to be done at this site.
- A large amount of funds over several years will be needed to finish the research in this area.

## **Site: Cinder Cones**

**Site Index Number:** G - 1

**Site Location:** T 13 N, R 11 E

### **Site Description:**

This site is overlooking several Cinder Cones with easy access for exploration.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

Accessible off of Kelbaker Road Backcountry Byway approx. 15 miles south of Baker, CA and I-15.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

National Natural Landmark (NNL) - Unique Regional Geological Feature.

At least 26 cones and associated lava flows exist in this extensive volcanic field.

### **Story development**

#### **Interpretive Theme:**

Geological History  
The Land of Volcanoes

**Audience:** All visitors, 4-wheel drive users

### **Site Objectives:**

Provide an opportunity for visitors to explore and learn about this unique region.

### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

The majority of visitors to this site will gain an understanding of how cinder cones are formed.



## **Interpretive Concepts -**

A cinder cone is a volcano constructed of loose rock fragments ejected from a central vent and commonly have slopes of about 30 degrees. Cinder Cones tend to be small and rarely exceed 500 meter's high.

## **Interpretive Mode(s):**

Wayside exhibit

## **Justification:**

This National Natural Landmark covers approx 25,600 acres and contains over 20 cones that are 300 - 600 feet high and over 5000 years old. This area illustrates past volcanic activity on a massive scale. Most features frequently encountered in volcanic fields are present here such as single cones of cinder and ash, parasitic cones, breached cones, collapsed lava tubes and ponding.

## **Planner's Comments/Recommendations:**

- There are some archaeological concerns in the area.
- Some of the Cinder cones are within WSA #244.

## **Site: Cedar Canyon Overlook**

**Site Index Number:** G - 2

**Site Location:** T 13 N, R 14 E sec 34 or 35 on Cedar Canyon Road Backcountry Byway.

### **Site Description:**

This will be an overlook pulloff. It looks west at Kelso Dunes, the Mojave Road and Cima Dome.

### **Seasonal Accessibility:**

This site is accessible all year round via paved section of Cedar Canyon Road.

### **Interpretive Significance:**

The overlook is along the Cedar Canyon Backcountry Byway, using part of the Old Mojave Road, which may be proposed as a National Recreation Trail.

## **Story development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Geological diversity of the valley.  
Human History  
Mojave Road

**Audience:** General visitor

### **Site Objectives:**

Provide an overlook of the valley, sand dunes, cima dome, and the Mojave Road.

### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

To have visitors learn some general information about the history of the Mojave Road.  
To have visitors learn about geological diversity in the area.

**Interpretive Concepts - NA**

### **Interpretive Mode(s):**

Wayside exhibit explaining and interpreting the view and geological features.



**Justification:**

This is a key site where visitors can see the Mojave Road and learn about 2 prominent geological features. The public is provided with a view of interesting geological features within close proximity.

**Planner's Comments:**

Site design and prep work will be needed.

## **Site: I-15 Rest Stops**

**Site Index Number:** O - 9

### **Site Accessibility:**

Access is available all year, except when being maintained by the county.

## **Story Development**

### **Interpretive Theme:**

Visitor orientation

Natural resource conservation

BLM

**Audience:** Mostly non users

### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

Improve BLM image

### **Interpretive Mode(s):**

Interpretive Trail, wayside exhibits, or exhibits with photographs.

### **Justification:**

Interpretation geared for the non user may help to limit trash problems and foster an appreciation for the desert and the BLM.

### **Planner's Comments/Recommendations**

- Start with the Rest Area on the north side of I-15 to reach visitors coming into the state from Nevada.
- Previous project proposal topics (requested Jan 11, 1990) include:

Valley Wells - West & East

East Mojave National Scenic Area

Enjoying the California Desert Conservation Area

Recreation opportunities in direction of travel



## **Site: I-40 - Fenner Rest Areas**

**Site Index Number:** O - 10

**Site Accessibility:** Access is available all year, except when being maintained by the county.

### **Story development**

#### **Interpretive Theme:**

- Visitor orientation
- Natural resource conservation
- BLM

**Audience:** Mostly non users

#### **Interpretive Program Objectives:**

- Improve BLM image

#### **Interpretive Mode(s):**

- Interpretive trail, wayside exhibits or exhibits with photo's.

#### **Justification:**

Interpretation geared for the non-user may help to limit trash problems and foster an appreciation for the desert and the BLM.

#### **Planner's Comments/Recommendations**

Start with Rest Area on the North side of I-40, reach those coming into the state and CDCA from Arizona.

Previous project proposal topics (requested Jan 11, 1990) include:

##### **Fenner - West**

- East Mojave National Scenic Area
- Uniqueness of the desert rather than a waste land
- Recreation opportunities in the direction of travel
- Kelso Depot

##### **Fenner - East**

- Enjoying the California Desert Conservation Area
- Desert Training Center - Camp Clipper
- Desert Tortoise





**THE FOLLOWING INTERPRETIVE CONCEPTS REQUIRE ADDITIONAL RESEARCH BEFORE DEVELOPMENT**

**Site:** To be determined

**Site Index Number:** H - 3

**Interpretive Theme:** Cattle Ranching, Human History

**Interpretive Mode(s):** Wayside exhibit, brochure

**Audience:** All visitors

**Justification:**

Cattle ranch is a major part of the history of the East Mojave. There are a variety of location available to observe a lifestyle that is fading from view.

**Site:** To be determined

**Site Index Number:** H - 4

**Interpretive Theme:** Human History, dry land farming

**Interpretive Mode(s):** Wayside exhibit, brochure

**Audience:** All visitors

**Justification:** The human interest of life in the desert and individuals trying to dry farm it.

**Site:** To be determined

**Site Index Number:** GH - 1

**Interpretive Theme:** Geology, Human History, Historical Mining

**Audience:** All visitors

**Interpretive Mode(s):** Wayside exhibit, and brochure

**Justification:**

To interpret mining as part of our history and how it played a role in our past and our future. Miners are interesting because of their industrious pursuit of often elusive wealth, in the face of desert - imposed hardships.

**Planner's Comments/Recommendations**

- possible location (Dolly Varden)





## OFF-SITE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

There is virtually no limit to the types of interpretive efforts that could be implemented off-site concerning the Scenic Area. Projects and programs would be limited only by manpower, budget and the enthusiasm required to implement the program.

Off-site interpretation consists of efforts outside the Scenic Area as well as interpretation away from sensitive resources within the Scenic Area. Off-site media includes brochures, maps, guides, and magazine or newspaper articles. Other possibilities for off-site interpretive programs could include presentations, special events, volunteer efforts, and TV or radio spots. Off-site interpretation may have a greater impact on potential visitors to the area. Off-site interpretation will focus on topics that separate the Scenic Area from other area attractions by focusing on their differences and not duplicating programs.

**Publications:** (all publications will follow state guidelines and standards)

- ◆ EMNSA guide

This guide has been revised from an earlier brochure. It now includes information about weather conditions, services, general information on exploring area, resources, history, emergency information, points of interest and point-to-point mileages.

**Brochures needing revision:**

- ◆ Hole-in-the-Wall brochure is out of print, and will be rewritten to include, the Mid Hills to Hole-in-the-Wall trail and Wildhorse Canyon Backcountry Byway.
- ◆ Fort Piute brochure presently focuses on recreation access into the area [hiking and vehicle]. This brochure will be rewritten to include history of the area and the importance of protecting our cultural resources.
- ◆ Rock Springs brochure is out of print and needs revision and reprinting.

**Other potential brochure topics:**

- ◆ Backcountry Byways
- ◆ Non motorized trail guide; separate for each use or one including all uses.
  - Hiking, equestrian use and mountain bikes.
- ◆ Historical uses of the East Mojave
  - mining
  - ranching
  - homesteading

- ♦ Common species list
  - plants
  - animals
  - birds
  - reptiles
- ♦ Publications about the areas features
  - geology
  - history
  - prehistory/Indians
  - rockhounding
  - wildflowers
  - rockclimbing

### **Posters and Theme Signs:**

- ♦ East Mojave
- ♦ Cultural Resource Protection
- ♦ Desert Hazards
- ♦ Conservation at home helps the desert

### **Presentations:**

Hikes and/or auto caravans can be conducted seasonally in various locations to provide high-quality field interpretation. Areas that make good short or long hikes include Kelso Dunes, Kelso Depot, Rock Spring, Fort Piute, Piute Gorge, Amboy Crater, Cinder Cones, Clark Mtns and Providence Mtns.

BLM personnel will present programs to schools and organizations in local communities (Needles, Bullhead, Laughlin) as time and manpower permits. Programs illustrated with slides will be developed and made available to schools and groups upon request. Such presentations are an important aspect of the interpretive program and would develop Environmental awareness, an appreciation for CDCA facilities and resources, and an understanding of BLM policies.

### **Environmental Education**

Local teachers need a source for environmental information about the desert. There is also a need for natural resource professionals to provide programs at schools. More materials need to be located and/or developed focusing on the desert. Major efforts will be directed toward 5th and 6th graders, but all groups needing information will be assisted as time and funds allow. Providing courses like project wild for teachers may reach a larger number of students. Efforts will cooperate with other agencies and organizations in the use and development of environmental education materials.



## **Portable Exhibits**

Exhibits will be developed for office displays, libraries, gem shows, and other events as they arise. Units should be easy to assemble and be transportable by 1 or 2 people. Photographs and labels should be designed so they can be easily changed.

### **Possible topics**

Volunteers at work - BLM thanks its volunteers

The desert in Spring

Enjoying the desert

How you can help your public lands

Take pride in America - Meet your desert

The writing on the wall - Indian

Tortoise

## **Desert Information Outposts**

Efforts will be made to maintain a working relationship with the proprietors to maintain this valuable service to the public. Brochures and information on all aspects of the desert and environmental conservation will be placed in the displays. The displays will be reviewed and updated as needed to maintain a good image.

## **Working with private industry or organizations**

Cooperative efforts will be developed with the private sector to provide the public with the most up to date information possible on topics relevant to the East Mojave. Present efforts include information sharing with the Granite Mountains Research Natural Area, Soda Springs, Colosseum Gold Mine, Friends of the Mojave Road, Volunteer group for the EMNSA and others.

## **Site signing**

Recreation sites will use the standard BLM shape sign with routed letters. Directional and campground regulation and fee signs will be wood with brown background and white press on letters. Use of Carsonite-Style signs and posts will be used on access routes where appropriate.

### **Signing Guidelines**

Recreation sites and trailhead signs (ie. Kelso Dunes, Rock Springs) - routed wood

Campgrounds - entry signs: routed wood,

- general information and regulation: press on letters

Points of interest (wayside exhibits) - recreation symbols on metal or Carsonite-Style





### Audiovisual facilities or equipment needs

As the interpretive program expands additional needs include a variety of zoom lenses, macro lens, copy stand w/lights, slide duplicator, misc. slide mounts, additional slide storage, sound equipment and room for developing slide programs.

Evaluation involves a continuous process. It is important to continually evaluate programs to ensure an effective program. Evaluating interpretation can take many forms but the key objective is to measure the effectiveness of the program or project objectives. It is important to note that there are different types of media and evaluation techniques. The media could include video, audio, exhibits, interpretive media programs, or the overall objectives.

Evaluating involves collecting and analyzing information about a program, its audience or its impacts for the audience for the purpose of improving the ability to serve the public. This can be in the form of formal or informal surveys. Evaluating interpretation means looking at the average result. Is it good? Does it relate to the audience? Are the media appropriate? Does it provide any value from visitors? Did the visitor learn anything, have a good time or change in attitude as a result of the interpretive service. It is important to look at the audience for indicators that our programs are effective.

Methods for evaluating interpretation include:

- Pre-visit by phone, report or checklist representing of the target audience
- Observation of behavior trends (to how well it can be used for the target audience)
- Observation of audience behavior during activities (attention, learning and viewing time, etc.)
- Questionnaires (written self-reports of visitor enjoyment, learning, or behavior)
- Formal and informal interviews (written self-reports of visitor enjoyment, learning, or behavior)
- Observation of audience behavior after activities (behavioral responses)





## EVALUATION

Evaluating and monitoring interpretive programs and objectives is an ongoing process. It is important to continually monitor programs to ensure an effective program. Evaluating interpretation can take many forms but the key objective is to measure the effectiveness of the program or project objectives. It is important to note that often different types of media are evaluated differently. The media could include visitor center exhibits, interpretive staffs programs, or the overall objectives.

Evaluating involves collecting and analyzing information about a program, its audience or its impacts on the audience for the purpose of improving our ability to serve the public. This can be in the form of formal or informal survey's. Evaluating interpretation means looking at the message itself. Is it brief? Does it relate to the audience? Are the media appropriate? Does it provoke any action from visitors? Did the visitor learn anything, have a good time or change his attitudes as a result of the interpretive service. It is important to look at the audience for indicators that our programs are effective.

Methods for evaluating interpretation include:

- ◆ Review by peers, experts or outsiders representative of the target audience
- ◆ Observation of behavior traces (is litter left in camp site; are signs shot up).
- ◆ Observation of audience behavior during activities (attention, listening and viewing time, etc.)
- ◆ Questionnaires (written self-reports of visitor enjoyment, learning, or behavior)
- ◆ Formal and informal interviews (verbal self-reports of visitor enjoyment, learning or behavior)
- ◆ Observation of audience behavior after activities (behavioral responses)





When evaluating a program some positive indicators to look for are:

- ♦ Program attendance -- are they well attended (based on visitation)
- ♦ Do visitors give feedback to employee or to other visitors, indicating enjoyment, understanding, satisfaction?
- ♦ Do visitors write letters of appreciation after returning home?
- ♦ Are complimentary remarks overheard?
- ♦ Are there return visitors to the programs or the area?
- ♦ Is the general tone of the group cheerful and receptive?
- ♦ Is there a positive reaction to visitor center exhibits, wayside exhibits, or other programs, etc.?

Receiving many negative responses may be evidence that a program or exhibit is not effective and needs to be revised or changed.

The overall interpretive program should be evaluated using the following questions:

- ♦ Has the program been implemented as planned?
- ♦ Is it reaching the intended audience?
- ♦ Is it providing to the audience intended services?
- ♦ Is the program reaching sufficient numbers?

As with all aspects of the interpretive program it is important that the most current research, methods and updated techniques be used to evaluate the program. There is no only or best way to evaluate interpretation, therefore it is important as new or better ways of evaluating interpretation come along they should be incorporated into the program.

To ensure professional programs are given to the public it is important that interpretive personnel be provided with the most up to date issues, information and techniques available. It is also important for them to belong to a professional interpretive organization to ensure this.





## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Implementation of the interpretative plan is prioritized into three phases to be accomplished over the next 10 years. Prioritization is based on current and projected demands, with initial emphasis placed on addressing such issues as minimum impacts from recreation activities, use-conflicts, visitor safety and orientation. Phases I and II involve most of the major developments requiring large expenditures. Budgetary limitations and lack of staff may affect the suggested time table. Exact text wording and site development plans will be accomplished one to two years prior to implementation. Program costs and personnel needs are estimated for each phase. Many recommended actions for the initial phases are intended to be ongoing, occurring annually or continuously at specified intervals.

### **Phase I 1990 - 1993:**

Phase I contains the major developments and the planning for such developments. This phase includes finishing the design work and exhibits for the Hole-in-the-Wall contact station, and designing Kelso Depot as a visitor center for the Scenic Area. It also includes the design work and fabrication of wayside exhibits along the Backcountry Byways.

### **Phase II 1994 - 1996**

Phase I projects will continue and ongoing programs will be monitored for effectiveness. Phase II will include the completion of Kelso Depot (if needed) . Planning will begin for development of information display to be placed at highway rest areas. Information panels, brochures and other displays over 5 years old should be evaluated for effectiveness, and up-dated and added to the implementation schedule.

### **Phase III 1997 - 1999**

Phase I and II projects will continue and on-going programs will be monitored for effectiveness. Planning efforts for the next ten year period will be initiated.





# APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	ITEM	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
APPENDIX B	ITEM 1	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 2	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 3	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 4	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 5	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
APPENDIX C	ITEM 1	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 2	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 3	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 4	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 5	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
APPENDIX D	ITEM 1	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 2	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 3	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 4	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 5	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
APPENDIX E	ITEM 1	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 2	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 3	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 4	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY
	ITEM 5	UNIT	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL	TAX	TOTAL	DATE	BY





# BUDGET AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	1990	PHASE I		1993	1994	PHASE II		1997	PHASE III		1999
		1991	1992			1995	1996		1998		

## ON-SITE DEVELOPMENTS

Improvements to Existing kiosks/boards		1,000		1,000		1,000				2,000	
H-I-W contact station			6,000	3,000		3,000		3,000		3,000	
Kelso Depot		?	250,000								
Wayside signs/exhibits			32,000	2,000	7,000		10,000				
Self-guided trails				7,000	3,000	3,000			3,000	3,000	
Entry areas	17,000					20,000					

## OFF-SITE OPERATIONS

### Publications:

Scenic Area Guide/brochure	3,000	20,000	10,000			10,000			10,000		
Other brochures		3,000	6,000	5,000	4,000	7,000			5,000	5,000	
Fliers/fact sheets			1,000	500	500	1,000	500	500			

### Personnel:

Volunteers		500	700	1,000	1,000	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
SCA			2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	
Seasonal Positions				GS - 5	GS - 5	GS - 5	GS - 5	GS - 5	GS - 5	GS - 5	
Permanent	GS - 9		♦GS - 11								
♦ Upgrade of GS-9 position			*GS - 7/9								
* NEW positions		*GS - 5/7			*GS - 5/7						
				*GS - 5/7							

# **INTERPRETIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	PHASE I: 1990 - 1993				PHASE II: 1994 - 1996			PHASE III: 1997 - 1999		
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>ON-SITE DEVELOPMENTS</b>										
Improvements to Existing Kiosks	X	X H-I-W		X Mid Hills		X				X
Interpretive Center/Museum	P-Kelso	P- H-I-W P-Kelso	P- H-I-W C-Kelso	C/B- HIW Kelso						
Wayside Signs/ Exhibits		P- H-I-W P- Rk. Spr. P- Cima D. P- C. Cone P- K. Dunes P- C. Cyn	C- H-I-W C- Rk. Spr. C- Cima D. C- C. Cone C- K. Dunes C- C. Cyn		Plan I-40 Plan I-15	R-Entry P.	P-Mining P-Ranching P-Farming	C-Mining C-Ranching C-Farming	B-Mining B-Ranching B-Farming	
Self-guided Trails			P-Ft Piute P-H-I-W/BT P-Rock Spg	C-Ft.Piute B-H-I-W/BT C-Rock Spg	B-Ft.Piute P-Sunrise B-Rock Spg	B-Sunrise	Plan I-40 Plan I-15			
<b>OFF-SITE PROGRAMS</b>										
Publications	EM Guide	N-EM/Color	R-EM Guide			R-EM Guide			R-EM Guide	
Brochures	N-Et.Mojave		R-Rock Spg. N-BCbyway	R- H-I-W R-Ft.Piute	N-TR.Guid		N-Common Species	N-Geology		
Fact sheets	Campground, Stargazing		MT Biking, Wildflowers	NNL Cinder Cones	Kelso Dunes	Historical Uses of EM	Rockhounding	Rockclimb Caving		
Annual Newsletter										
Presentations or conducted Activities										
School Talks/ Community Lectures	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## **Legend**

P - Plan  
 R - Reprint/Review  
 N - New  
 B - Build/install  
 C - Contract



PERSONNEL ACTIONS	PHASE I: 1990 - 1993				PHASE II: 1994 - 1996			PHASE III: 1997 - 1999		
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS</b>										
Campground Host Volunteers	Solicit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SCA			Spring	Spg/fall	Spg/fall	Spg/fall	Spg/fall	Spg/fall	Spg/fall	Spg/fall
Seasonal Interpreter New GS - 5 Reoccurring		?	?	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Full-time 5/7/9 ORP Interp (New)		X		X	X					
Kelso Coordinator and other positions needed at the depot	New		X							
Supervisory Chief Interpreter			X							

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► designates reference material for plan

◆ designates documents with interpretive actions

This listing is a working bibliography and reflects materials used in preparing the plan and those which serve as a starting point to guide future planning.

# GLOSSARY

**Audience:** One or more persons reached by a method of interpretation.

**Brochure:** A brief descriptive and /or pictorial publication concerning resources and other information of an area. Synonyms: folder, leaflet, pamphlet.

**Campfire Program:** An interpretive presentation in close proximity to a campfire. Examples: audio-visual program, singing, demonstration and role playing.

**Contact Point:** The physical location where an audience is exposed to an interpretive message. Examples; guided nature trail, interpretive sign location, amphitheater, museum, visitor center, wayside exhibit.

**Environmental Interpretation:** A process or activity which strives for conception between man and his environment, that conceived being the enlightening knowledge of the environment and the part man plays in it.

**Exhibit:** A portrayal of a concept or sequence of events by use of actual objects, information labels, charts or diagrams.

**Facility:** A structure or development where interpretation regularly occurs.

Examples: visitor center, visitor contact station, amphitheater, self-guiding trail.

**Guide:** An interpreter who accompanies visitors during a tour, hike, or walk, and interprets resources along the route.

**Guided:** An interpretive tour, hike, or walk which is led by a guide.

**Hike:** A journey on foot, through or to an interpretive resource, involving strenuous activity, steep grades, or rough terrain. This is more strenuous activity than a walk.

**Information:** Factual knowledge derived from reading, observation, or instruction and imparted to visitors by an interpreter.

**Interpretation** - Is communications that reveals principles, meanings, and relationships through the use of original objects, first hand experience, and illustrative media rather than simply transmitting facts. Interpretation increases the visitor's awareness and protection of public land resources. ( For BLM purposes, interpretation also focuses on helping visitors understand environmental problems related to the management of the public lands.

**Naturalist:** A person who studies or interprets nature or the natural sciences, especially in relation to plants, animals and the land.



**Outdoor Education:** A structured activity about the out-of-doors which is usually centered around school curricula formally or informally.

**On-site:** Having to do with interpretation which occurs directly at the original location of the resource or activity as opposed to interpretation of the same resource in a different resource.

**Resource:** Any area, organism, object, structure, process, activity or means of human need which has interpretive significance to an audience and which may be interpreted for an audience.

**Scenic Overlook:** An opening in the vegetation along a trail or highway which affords the audience a scenic view of some resource.

**Self-guided:** An interpretive activity undertaken without the physical presence of an interpreter. Such activities may include walks, hikes, tours, museum visits, visitor centers. In most cases the audience follows a path or series of markers.

**Slide Presentation:** An interpretive program or presentation using photographic transparencies as visual aids. Slide presentations may utilize one, two, three, or more screens and projectors, lapse dissolve units and/or sound. The presentation may be given live by an interpreter or by complete automation.

**Wayside Display/Exhibit :** An interpretive facility located along or near a road or trail to be used by travelers.

## **Interpretive Site Inventory**

**Site Name:**

**Site Index No:**

**Site Location:**

**Site Description:**

**Seasonal Accessibility:**

**Interpretive Significance:**

**Story development**

**Interpretive Theme:**

**Audience:**

**Site Objectives:**



**Interpretive Program Objectives:**

**Interpretive Concepts -**

**Interpretive Mode(s):**

**Justification:**

**Planner's Comments:**

## EXHIBIT PLANNING WORKSHEET

Site Name:

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Exhibit #:

Theme or Sub Theme:

Exhibit Title:

Main Concept(s) to be interpreted:

### Exhibit Objectives:

- What do you want the audience to learn?

- What do you want the audience to do?

- What do you want the audience to feel?



**LABEL COPY**

**Site Name:**  
**Exhibit #:**

**Page** \_\_\_\_ **of** \_\_\_\_  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS**

**LABEL COPY**

## ARTIFACT/GRAPHIC INFORMATION SHEET

Exhibit #:

Name of image/Artifact:

Source:

Size and Format:

Location in Exhibit:

Label copy reference #:

Comments:



## INTERPRETIVE SIGN/PANEL WORKSHEET

Project #:

Site:

---

TEXT

Panel Size:

Type size/style:

Color(s):

Graphic(s):

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